

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: June 28, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on June 22, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Oil Spill Response, Higgins Creek, Des Plaines, Illinois

On June 9, 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) received a call from an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) emergency responder regarding an approximate 1 mile long, bank-to-bank oil spill of unknown origin on Higgins Creek in Des Plaines, Illinois. In addition to the substantial sheen on the creek, wildlife were also reported to have been impacted by the spill of the unspecified petroleum product. On-Scene Coordinator Callie Bolattino was dispatched to the site to assist Illinois EPA and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago in their efforts to discover the oil's source and recover the oil. In order to contain the spill, U.S. EPA's emergency response contractors deployed skirted and absorbent boom to capture oil moving downstream, while absorbent pads were used to collect oil in the stagnant areas of the creek. Wildlife damages were assessed and overseen by a special agent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The source of the spill, which probably occurred in the early morning hours of June 9, was not discovered.

Contact: Callie Bolattino (312-353-3490)

Radiation Survey (Chicago Family Golf Center Property), Lindsay Light II Site, Chicago, Illinois

As part of continuing surveillance for radioactive thorium materials that may have been disposed of by a gas mantle manufacturer, Lindsay Light Company, in the early 1900's, U.S. EPA staff conducted a survey of the Chicago Family Golf Center, a property slated for major development, just north of the Chicago Loop. Two areas of contamination were found, one over 100 times background levels.

Contact: Larry Jensen (312-886-5026)

Groundwater Investigation, Plain Township, Ohio

On June 13, 2001, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) contacted the Removal Program with a request for assistance on a contaminated groundwater situation that was found that afternoon. The North Canton Water Department had installed a new production well in Plain Township and discovered contamination in two of the four monitoring wells surrounding the production well. The contaminants were tetrachloroethene at 1600 to 1900 parts per billion (ppb) and trichloroethene at 510 ppb. The Stark County Health Department used this information to issue a drinking water ban from any private wells in the area and as far north as Uniontown (where the Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund site is located). They then called U.S. EPA for assistance. On June 14, 2001, the Health Department, Ohio EPA, and U.S. EPA met and devised a sampling plan to determine the extent of contamination using existing private water wells. Sampling began on June 15, 2001, with Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA, and the North Canton Water Department all collecting samples in separate areas and having them analyzed independently. By June 18, 2001, all sample results were in (including some that private residents had analyzed on their own) and no contamination was found in any of them. At that time, the Health Department rescinded the drinking water ban. U.S. EPA has continued to refine the extent of contamination by sampling additional private drinking water wells. At this point, no wells have been found to be contaminated, 55 wells have been sampled and analysis has been completed on 40 of them. The investigation continues.

Contact: Joe Fredle (440-250-1740)

Removal Site Assessment, Sportsman Park, Naperville, Illinois

On June 18, 2001, the U.S. EPA met with the Naperville Park

District, their consultants, and their attorney to conduct a removal site assessment at the Sportsman Park Gun Club in Naperville, Illinois. The site had been referred to the U.S. EPA program by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and Site Assessment Manager, Jan Pels, after high levels of lead shot were found on site during the preliminary site assessment. Dr. David Charters, Environmental Response Team (ERT) Biologist, and Ed Karecki and Mark Huston from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service attended the meeting and site walk through. Naperville Park District has recently obtained an National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from Illinois EPA to manage the runoff from the site and this has allowed the club to re-open using steel shot. The Park District also implemented some interim measures to prevent birds from picking up lead shot in the water channel which connects two ponds on the property. Plastic netting was constructed and some erosion control netting placed to minimize ingestion of lead shot. During the meeting, it was discussed that Naperville Park District will prepare a Best Engineered Practice to manage the range and construct further measures to contain the lead shot and prevent or minimize exposure to wildlife. U.S. EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Illinois EPA will review the report and comment on the efficiency and practicality of the containment measures. The site does not appear to meet the imminent and substantial endangerment criteria for a removal action. The removal branch will recommend scoring of the site to determine if it is eligible for the National Priority List (NPL).

Contacts: Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)
Jan Pels (312-353-3009)
Ed Karecki (312-353-3202)

Assessment, Winthrop Harbor Meth Amphetamine House, Winthrop harbor, Illinois

On June 12, 2001, U.S. EPA assessment assistance was requested by the Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, police department concerning possible environmental contamination as a result of illegal meth amphetamine production at a private residence. On May 17, 2001, and June 9, 2001, separate arrests were made by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Illinois State Police involving a particular residential producer of meth amphetamine in Winthrop Harbor. Investigations of the residence turned up empty drums and possible evidence of chemical dumping along an adjacent creek bed. On-Scene Coordinator Callie Bolattino assisted the Winthrop Harbor police in an inspection and air monitoring of the property, which turned up no residual soil contamination or proof of illegal dumping.

Contact: Callie Bolattino (312-353-3490)

Senator Voinovich Visit, Feed Materials Production Center (USDOE) Superfund Site, Fernald, Ohio

On June 15, 2001, Ohio Senator George Voinovich toured the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) at the Feed Materials Production Center (USDOE) Superfund site, Fernald, Ohio. The tour included visits to the major projects at FEMP: Waste Pits Remediation, On-Site Disposal Facility, Decontamination and Demolition, Southern Waste Units, Aquifer Restoration, Legacy Waste and Silos Projects. Following the tour, Senator Voinovich met with a small group representing the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), local citizens, the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board, and U.S. EPA. Senator Voinovich stated that he was pleased with the progress he saw. The group conveyed the need for adequate and stable funding in order to maintain that progress, if not accelerate cleanup.

Contact: Gene Jablonowski (312-886-4591)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Milwaukee Brownfields Showcase Community Kickoff Event, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On June 22, 2001, several Region 5 staff and managers attended the Milwaukee Brownfields Showcase Community Kickoff Event along with more than 120 Federal, State, and local government representatives, as well as developers and others. Steve Luftig gave the luncheon keynote address, introduced by William Muno, and David Ullrich made remarks in the morning session. Others from the Region attending were Joe Dufficy, Jane Neumann, Kyle Rogers who is the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA)-designee for the Showcase project, and Janette Marsh from the Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis (OSEA). Of special interest in the program was a talk by the Corporate Executive Officer (CEO) of Allen Edmonds Shoe Company. He chose to purchase and clean up the site of a former coal storage area and, until recently, a tallow factory in the Menomonee River Valley in order to build a new shoe factory close to where his workers live - a building designed with plenty of windows that open, he added. The occasion fostered conversations about opportunities for many new partnerships to address the brownfields in Milwaukee.

Contacts: William Muno (312-353-9773)
Jane Neumann (312-353-0123)

**Indiana Department of Environmental Management/U.S. EPA ENPPA
Kickoff Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana**

On June 22, 2001, Cindy Wakat represented Superfund Division at the kickoff meeting for the Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement (ENPPA) in Indianapolis. Related to the Superfund aspects of the agenda, the items of discussion were the core funding allocation to the States; the construction completion cooperative efforts of U.S. EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM); and, the cooperative emphasis and work on brownfields sites and redevelopment of brownfields and Superfund sites. Robert Springer of the Waste, Pesticides & Toxics Division (WPTD) and Cindy Wakat also discussed with the State the emphasis we are directing to reuse of sites in Northwest Indiana, particularly for ecological restoration, and some examples of that.

Contact: Cindy Wakat (312-886-7338)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

TENORM Conference, Cleveland, Ohio

On June 12, 2001, Larry Jensen participated as a member of the American National Standards Institute/Health Physics Society N13.53 committee on Technologically-Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM) in Cleveland, Ohio. This committee is completing work on a national guidance and criteria document for control and release of TENORM, a pervasive type of radioactive material commonly found in industrial and consumer products, but outside controls of the Atomic Energy Act.

Contact: Larry Jensen (312-886-5026)

**FEMA Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) Meeting,
Chicago, Illinois**

On June 19-20, 2001, Sheila Calovich (Emergency Response Branch) and Glenn Cekus (Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention) represented U.S. EPA at the quarterly Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting, which was held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 5 offices in Chicago, Illinois. The focus of the meeting was Federal

government response to a potential massive outbreak of foot and mouth disease among livestock herds in the United States. Some of the topics covered included an overview of the disease, health and economic consequences, State and Canadian initiatives to combat the outbreak, and roles of various Federal agencies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture would be the lead Federal agency and U.S. EPA would support operations involving the disposal of diseased animal carcasses and associated decontamination procedures for agricultural facilities, response personnel, and equipment. U.S. EPA would also be involved in the monitoring of plumes of smoke resulting from the open burning or incineration of diseased carcasses.

Contacts: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)
Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation, Norwood City Health Department, Ohio

On June 18, 2001, Response Section 1 Chief, Jason El-Zein, received a letter of appreciation from Donna Laake, Norwood City Health Commissioner, praising the professional manner in which Steve Renninger conducted the Norwood Radiator Site cleanup during the earlier months of 2001.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7663)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers